



NEWSLETTER



TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION
CENTRE

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TWENTY ONE YEARS.

The UFO Centre was founded twenty one years ago, a lot has happened in those years and we may well ask if we are any nearer to finding an explanation for the phenomena.

Tasmania has seen its share of flaps and excitement during the past 21 years but right now like the rest of the worlds we are suffering from a distinct lack of sightings.

The aims of the Centre are to investigate and record sightings in the state and to pass on information to members and fellow groups or investigators.

We feel that the Centre has achieved its objective in investigating Tasmanian sightings over the years, and in distributing the information not only to Australian and overseas sources as well. A number of special reports have been prepared, whilst one of the Centre's most effective tools has been its computerised Tascat listing.

Tascat has a list of all the Tasmanian unexplained reports, dates, times, type of event, witnesses, locations, shapes, and sighting features on this programme written by Paul Jackson. A listing of various criteria can be made from the file of Tascat. The list can be of all cases with green lights, or all CE2 events, all cases from Hobart, in fact just about any range of sightings can be extracted for examination. The Reports and Tascat information are available to members and all interested persons.

The passing years have seen a change in the structure of the Centre. Originally annual elections were required to form a committee but now the Centre is run by a number of executive coordinators. The Centre is basically an investigatory body and the change in committee members in the early years saw a lack of continuity in contact with the media and public. Following the burst of early enthusiasm the Centre had problems filling the required positions, now that tasks are approached on a more permanent basis Tascat, media contacts etc: have been developed over a period of time.

A lot of hard work was done in the 1970s presenting the Centre as a responsible body investigating UFO reports with a common sense approach. Media interviews and press items gave just the facts. Gradually we have changed from a social/sightings organisation into an investigating body.

Probably the only minus factor in recent years has been the decision to take our Annual Report off the news stands. The first Annual Report in 1969 soon found a market at the local newsagents and as sightings spread so did sale of the Report. By the end of the 1970s the Report was sold state wide; however, the fall in recent years of UFO sightings saw a similar fall in sales coupled with rising printing costs made it prohibitive to continue with the Report being sold to the public. The Centre still though prints two Newsletters per year together with the Annual Report now for members only. All copies of the Centre's publications have been filed with the State Library of Tasmania.

So now it is on with the next 21 years and part of the mystery of the UFO phenomena is that no one knows just what it will bring?

TASMANIAN REPORTS

Another East Coast case has come to our attention, this time from Bream Creek, the sighting occurred last October, not long the witness recalls before the sighting between Swansea and Triabunna that appeared in the Mercury newspaper.

The sighting came to us after a friend had called in about a light that proved to be a scintillating star. Details on the case were obtained soon after.

The witness was up in the early hours to feed her baby, she was sitting in the lounge room looking out to the north east over Maria Island. She noticed a bright light which seemed to be moving towards her at first, then it changed direction and moved quickly to the right before moving round in a large circle. Following this the light performed a series of erratic movements for the next 20 minutes or more, the witness found it difficult to recall exactly what patterns were followed by the light. It was always visible in the window frame going up and down, moving sideways, then performing large loops. The light was still there when the witness went to put the baby back to bed.

The light was a large round shape and yellowish/white in colour, the sighting time was about 3/4 am. No other reports were received by the Centre. However, the last 18 months have seen some half dozen cases from the East Coast.

Amateur Astronomer Reports Shapes.

A Launceston resident whose interests include observing satellites was out on the evening of April 25th observing Halleys Comet....He tells the story in his own words.

"At 8.35pm I was outside at the rear of my residence in outer West Launceston observing Halleys Comet which was high in the sky, I was using a pair of binoculars, 30x50. Upon lowering my arms I was startled to see four objects coming from the south east part of the sky at approx: 30-40 degrees above the horizon, from near the "Sting" area of the constellation Scorpio. Coming towards me when almost above my view point they slowly turned towards the south west. The objects were moving in a staggered formation with the first one further apart and to the east, the other three kept at equal distance."

"When they straightened out to a south westerly direction and moving away to the horizon the first moved off independently at right angles to the north west. A few seconds after that they faded from sight".

"I tried to focus on them with my binoculars but they were moving too fast also my binoculars needed a steady support. The colour of the objects were a bluish-white shimmering. The time of the observation was about 8 seconds. The speed I estimated about three to four times that of airline jets that pass over."

East Coast Again.

Yet another nocturnal light report, this time on May 29th from the East Coast town of Swansea at 6.15am. The light was watched for some 5 minutes by a Swansea resident.

The witness saw two lights together in the western sky, both lights were stationary. Then the left light started to move up and to the south, originally it had been at a 20 degree elevation but it now moved to an estimated 35 degrees. It was now behind thin high cloud and seemed to recede into the distance. The other light it was determined was Saturn, there were no aircraft movements in the area at that time.

The witness was able to have a look with binoculars at the light but it just appeared as a bright white light.

TASMANIAN REPORTS Contd:

The latest case to come to the Centre's attention occurred on August 3rd from the Huon Valley. A number of witnesses were outside a house near Crabtree when they noticed a large light to the west north west just above the distant treeline on the hills. Venus was also visible in the evening sky (7.45pm) with the other light just below to its right.

The orange coloured light seemed to have some smaller lights below. It moved beneath Venus towards the west then passed in front of the hills into a gully or saddle. The 3 witnesses now noticed there was a glow from behind the trees but this faded out before other family members arrived on the scene. The latecomers confirmed seeing Venus still shining in the sky.

Sometime later one of the witnesses was driving his friend home to Ranelagh. They again saw a bright light to the west and took this to be the light that had seen going down behind the hill. However, it seems that on this occasion they were deceived by Venus which was now low on the horizon. Checks with the Department of Aviation and RAAF proved negative.

Sighting Update.

The report from Binalong Bay mentioned in our June Newsletter (6.25pm on April 13th) now seems to have been due to a satellite.

TEN YEARS AGO

Do you remember just how many things were happening ten years ago. 1976 saw the run of lights at Maydena, plus ten car pace sightings. Figures occurred in 4 reports with 7 cases with the UFO near the ground or apparently landed, traces being recorded in one case. Interestingly there were some half dozen sightings from the East Coast that year.

Twenty years back we did not have as many sightings but even so there were a couple of car pace events and a landing report. The majority of the 1976 sightings were from south or eastern parts of the state in 1966 they were spread around a wider area.

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS:

TASMANIAN U.F.O. COMPUTER CATALOGUE - TASCAT 1986\$3.00
(A complete list of over 400 Unidentifieds, from 1948)

TASMANIAN LANDINGS CATALOGUE - Issue 2\$2.00
(Gives details of Unidentifieds seen on or near ground)

MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT\$2.00
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UFO TASMANIA MAGAZINES: 1978 to 1985 (8 Issues).....\$5.80
(TUFOIC's Annual report magazine)

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Fighter pilots chase UFOs over Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Fri. — The Brazilian Air Force has ordered an investigation into the sighting of tiny balls of light that flew through Brazilian skies at 1,440 kmh and evaded planes sent up to chase them.

"We are looking for a technical explanation for these phenomena. So far we don't have any," the Air Force Ministry's press office said in Brasilia, the capital.

The objects were first sighted on Monday night by a private plane near Sao Jose dos Campos, an industrial city 336 kilometres south-west of Rio de Janeiro.

The Air Force Minister, Gen Octavio Moreira Lima, said the objects were soon saturating radar and interfering with air

traffic in Sao Jose dos Campos and nearby Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city.

Gen Lima said the Air Force sent up three Mirage fighters and two F-5E jets to chase the objects, which he described as multi-coloured balls of light.

"One of the pilots reported that 13 of the objects accompanied his aircraft, seven on one side and six on the other," the minister said.

The jets, which confirmed the presence of the UFOs on their radar screens, flew after the objects for three hours until low fuel forced them to return to base.

One of the pilots was reported as saying the objects were the size and shape of ping pong balls and flew at a speed

of nearly 1500 kmh.

Gen Lima was asked in a televised interview to explain what had occurred, and answered: "Don't ask me. We don't have any explanation."

Astronomer Larry Brown of the Hayden Planetarium in New York said: "It could be anything. There's a whole lot of phenomena that take place on the Earth all the time that we don't know about."

He said there were no major meteor showers on that day, but did offer one possible explanation: "It may have something to do with the recent passage of Halley's Comet. There's a lot of dust in the air, and when it hits the Earth's atmosphere it burns brightly."

Jets hunt UFOs in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO — The air force has ordered an investigation into the sighting of tiny balls of light that flew through Brazilian skies at 1440 kmh and evaded air force planes sent up to chase them.

"We are looking for a technical explanation for these phenomena. So far we don't have any," the air force ministry's press office said in Brasilia, the capital.

The objects were first sighted on Monday night by a private plane near Sao Jose dos Campos, an industrial city 336 km south-west of Rio de Janeiro.

The air force sent up three Mirage fighters and two F-5E jets to chase the objects, which he described as multi-colored balls of light. Instead, the objects pursued one of the planes.

"One of the pilots reported that 13 of the objects accompanied his aircraft, seven on one side and six on the other."

More lights in Brazil sky

SAO PAULO, Sat. — Further sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were reported in Brazil today as an investigation continued into the scrambling of fighters on Monday to intercept objects that appeared on radar screens.

Brazilian television showed film of a glowing, round object in the sky which was said to have been taken last night by a freelance cameraman near Maringa, in the southern state of Parana.

On Wednesday afternoon the air force base in Fortaleza, capital of the north-eastern state of Ceara, received numerous calls from residents about a dark, cigar-shaped object seen in the skies, the *Jornal do Brasil* said.

The Air Force Ministry has summoned pilots of three F-5s and two Mirage jets ordered into the air on Monday from bases in southern Brazil to report on the sightings, which lasted for several hours and disrupted civil air traffic.

UFO probe ordered

ADELAIDE — RAAF officials will investigate reports that an unidentified flying object crashed into the sea near Victor Harbour, about 70 km south of Adelaide, on Saturday.

The object was unofficially logged as a meteorite by the RAAF at the Edinburgh Base north of Adelaide.

The object was seen by dozens of people throughout the State's south-east.

One witness, Thornleigh farmer Neil Sutherland, told local police that the object looked like a rocket, with a propeller-like device at the rear, fins and a fair bit of red paint.